

Twenty-second, Twenty-third,
Twenty-fourth Biennial Reports

of the

Board of Trustees

of the

Historical Society of Montana



1933-1938

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Montana State Library



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Twenty-second Biennial Report
of the
Board of Trustees
of the
Historical Society
of Montana

104684



1933-1934



DISCARDED

JUN 24 1967

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY of MONTANA

From Date of Organization March 25, 1865

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OFFICERS

OF THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

1934

Josephine I. Hepner, President	-	-	-	-	Helena, Montana
O. F. Goddard, Vice-President	-	-	-	-	Billings, Montana
M. M. Duncan	-	-	-	-	Virginia City, Montana
David Hilger, Secretary	-	-	-	-	Helena, Montana

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

TWENTY-SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT TO
GOVERNOR FRANK H. COONEY
1934

Helena, Montana
Nov. 1, 1934

Hon. Frank H. Cooney,
Governor of Montana,
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

We have the honor to submit herewith the twenty-second biennial report of the Historical Society of Montana for the years 1933-1934 in compliance with the statute requirements.

We are respectfully,

Your obedient servants,
JOSEPHINE I. HEPNER,
President.

O. F. GODDARD
M. M. DUNCAN
DAVID HILGER, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

Helena, Montana
Nov. 1, 1934

To the Board of Trustees of the
Historical Society of Montana.
Mrs. Josephine I. Hepner, President.

Members of the Board:

We have the honor to submit the twenty-second biennial report of the Historical Society of Montana for the years 1933-1934. In presenting this biennial report I desire to review briefly the organization of this Society.

Although I use the word "Society" it is in fact the name of a library which is a state department. The law provides that the Governor shall appoint a board of five trustees who in turn appoint a librarian to serve for a term of two years. The librarian appoints the assistant librarian. The codes of 1921, section 1558, provide for the appointment of a librarian at salary of \$2,100.00 per annum payable monthly and section 1564 provides for the employment of two assistants at a salary of \$1,200 per annum or \$100.00 per month. When I took charge of the library, September 1, 1923, the problem of securing an assistant librarian who would be experienced and competent in library work was solved by hiring a trained librarian at the salary of \$150.00 per month, and dispensing with the other assistant. Mrs. Anne McDonnell, a former assistant in the Butte Public Library, took this place in July, 1924, and has continued in the position since that time. This was done with the approval of the State Board of Examiners and resulted in a saving of \$600.00 per year in our salary budget and resulted in proficient and capable service in the library.

In 1927 the legislature increased the salary of the librarian to \$200.00 a month, which has continued to date but we still have a saving of \$300.00 a year on the former allowance of \$4,500.00 per annum. All told this has made for the past ten years a direct saving of \$4,200.00 in salaries for our department to the state of Montana, an unusual record for the past decade, I am sure.

Notwithstanding our voluntary reduction of salaries the legislature of 1933 accorded our department the same treatment in the matter of salary cuts as those departments which have had increases instead of decreases in salaries. Our salary appropriation was reduced to \$3,240.00 per annum and no provision made for binding of our newspapers nor publication of an annual volume of "Contributions."

This Society receives practically all of the newspapers published in the state thanks to the co-operation of the publishers and editors. At present we take 125 weekly newspapers and 16 dailies which is about on a par, considering population, with Kansas which has one of the best if not the most valuable of newspaper files of a particular state, in the United States. Our collection dates back to the first paper published in the Territory, August 27, 1864, and from that time on is almost complete. The importance of the newspaper files is not realized by many people in Montana. These papers contain the record of the daily life of every community in the state for more than sixty years and their value should be made evident to members of the legislature particularly as that body is responsible for the provision of funds for binding and preserving these files. In this collection can be traced through news items, advertisements and special articles, the social, political and economic history of the community or state. The intimate lives of the people are recorded for here is found the births, marriages, deaths and the achievements of all. It is impossible to estimate the value of the newspaper collection which might reach hundreds of thousands of dollars for many of the files are the only ones extant. Students of all subjects find here a boundless source of information and travel long distances to consult to consult the newspapers in conducting their research studies. Two books to be published this fall by well known book companies contain material found in our library files and the authors found it well worth the trouble and expense to make a trip to Helena for that purpose. Not to have funds for the binding of the newspapers is a calamity for the paper deteriorates rapidly when tied in bundles until time for binding. If the money for that purpose is too long delayed these papers may be lost. It is also difficult to consult the newspapers when stored in this inconvenient manner. I earnestly hope this legislature will make adequate provision for this purpose for if our newspapers are lost through neglect no amount of money spent later can remedy this loss.

We have had no funds for the purchase of books or objects of historical value and have been dependent upon exchanges or donations for additions to our collections and in many instances have seen valuable material which belongs in Montana go to a

more successful bidder. We were very fortunate in receiving as a gift from Mr. and Mrs. J. K. T. Sherwood of Glen Cove, New York, a large oil painting by the famous Montana artist, E. S. Paxson. It represents a scene of early western history particularly interesting to Montana people, the gate of the old trading post, with the Indians arrived for trade, and in the background "The Latest Arrivals" the covered wagon and the white immigrants. It is one of the finest examples of Paxson's work and by far the best we have in that style.

It was my fond hope when I assumed the office of librarian of the Historical Society of Montana that during my incumbency a suitable building would be erected to house our valuable collection of books, newspaper files, portraits and museum items. I have time and again urged the construction of such a building in my reports and to the citizens of Montana but to no avail. The late Senator Walsh suggested to me a memorial from the state legislature to congress asking for a future donation to the capitol buildings land grant of 250,000 acres of federal land which would make it possible for the state to sell the \$250,000 bond issue authorized by the legislature of 1929 for a library building. I prepared a memorial which was introduced in the Senate of the 22nd legislature of 1931, as Senate Joint Memorial No. 6 and passed both houses but there were no results. This same memorial was introduced in the extra session of the 22nd legislature, 1934, without success. In the death of Senator Walsh we lost his aid in the matter of getting the help of congress in the project. I still urge the legislative body convening in January, 1935 to take steps toward financing the erection of a building as it would be a fitting and lasting memorial to the pioneers of the state and a valuable gift to future generations.

Our library at present is suffering from lack of funds to keep up our purchases in books and subscriptions to current periodicals and for binding pamphlets and newspapers. It is recognized by all who are familiar with such departments as one of the best and is conducted on a very economical basis. Through a small F.E.R.A. appropriation the services of Mr. Royle C. Rowe of the University of Montana were secured to re-arrange and classify all the geological specimens in the museum collection. Mr. Rowe also did the same for the other museum cases with historical and Indian relics. These were all arranged in proper order and marked with suitable cards resulting in a neat and attractive display which has proved of great interest to all visitors in the capitol building. Mr. Rowe was very well qualified for the work with his scientific knowledge and the practical ability to make his own plans for arranging the various items.

I wish to take this opportunity to commend the work of my valuable assistant, Mrs. Anne McDonnell, who is a proficient research librarian in the field of Montana history and a hard worker. I do not hesitate to say that she is the best qualified librarian in her immediate field in Montana and who, as previously noted, has done the work of two former assistants for the past ten years. Both Mrs. McDonnell and myself have experienced the most cordial relationships with other departments and received in every way most courteous treatment from each for which we express our sincere appreciation.

For the active assistance and co-operation of the Board of Trustees in all matters and their many kindnesses to me I am sincerely grateful and thank them all.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID HILGER,
Librarian.

Books Accessioned During 1933-34

General works, newspapers, periodicals, etc.	134
Religion	3
Sociology	96
Philology	1
Natural science	4
Useful arts	14
Fine arts	1
Literature	7
General history and travel	107
Biography	30
Total	397

Gifts Other Than Books Received During 1933-1934

Framed portraits of:

Mrs. Mary Valiton
 Senator T. J. Walsh
 Senator J. E. Erickson
 Perry and John Moore
 W. W. McDowell

Oil paintings:

On the Whoop-up Trail by Lee Kerr
 The Latest Arrivals by E. S. Paxson

Flag of the 7th cavalry U. S. A.

Pen used in signing the silver bill by President F. D. Roosevelt

Maps of Montana, 1879, 1887 and 1892

Civil war rifle

Spencer breech loader with Hawkins muzzle loading barrel—
 gun Stage driver's leather belt of the seventies

Miscellaneous items, pictures of early days, etc.



Twenty-third Biennial Report
of the
Board of Trustees
of the
Historical Society
of Montana



1935-1936

PRESIDENTS AND LIBRARIANS
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

From Date of Organization March 25, 1865

PRESIDENTS

[illegible]

LIBRARIANS

[illegible]

OFFICERS

OF THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

1936

Josephine I. Hepner, President	-	-	-	Helena, Montana
O. F. Goddard, Vice-President	-	-	-	Billings, Montana
M. M. Duncan	-	-	-	Virginia City, Montana
C. O. Marcyes	-	-	-	Missoula, Montana
David Hilger, Secretary	-	-	-	Helena, Montana

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

TWENTY-THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT TO
GOVERNOR ELMER HOLT
1936

Helena, Montana
Dec. 1, 1936

Hon. Elmer Holt,
Governor of Montana,
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

We have the honor to submit herewith the twenty-third biennial report of the Historical Society of Montana for the years 1935-1936 in compliance with the statute requirements.

We are respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

JOSEPHINE I. HEPNER,
President.

O. F. GODDARD, Vice President.

M. M. DUNCAN

C. O. MARCYES

DAVID HILGER, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

OF THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

Helena, Montana
Dec. 1, 1936

To the Board of Trustees of the
Historical Society of Montana.
Mrs. Josephine I. Hepner, President.

Members of the Board:

We have the honor to submit herewith the twenty-third biennial report of the Historical Society of Montana for the years 1935-1936.

During the past year, 1936, we have been fortunate in having a small W.P.A. project of three helpers who were employed a total of 1,836 hours during this year and will be with us for some time during the coming year. These people have performed valuable service in indexing and mending newspaper files, mending books and binding pamphlet material and other work which could be done by untrained help. A man who was employed on this project for several weeks rendered good service in re-arranging our U. S. document room in the west basement which had been completely upset by the C.W.A. workers of two years ago when they installed new heating and plumbing equipment in the basements.

The work of re-cataloging the library in the more modern and generally used Dewey decimal system is at last completed. We were fortunate in having for short periods the aid of two trained librarians on this work and with the aid of the W.P.A. project in re-labeling books, writing cards, etc., the cataloging is finished.

Our appropriation of \$5,260.00 per annum is still far short of what is actually needed to keep our newspaper binding up to date, for the purchase of new books and other items of historical interest. We are far in arrears with our newspaper binding and it would take several thousand dollars to bind the papers now stored in paper bundles in the basement. The paper and print deteriorate under these conditions and may result in the loss of valuable papers which could never be replaced. Each year we stress the importance of caring for these papers and the need of funds to properly care

for this valuable property and hope the incoming legislature will realize the necessity of money for binding the newspapers.

One of my chief regrets is that during my term of office as librarian we have not had funds for publishing a volume of "Contributions" and as we have the material for a volume ready for the printers I hope that we may succeed in getting money for publishing another addition to our set. The volume which is ready for print is a journal kept by a clerk of the American Fur Company at Fort Benton in 1855-1856 and will be a valuable contribution to Montana history.

We have had our usual quota of visitors engaged in research work in western or Montana history and it is very gratifying to hear our library praised by people familiar with the libraries of older and wealthier states. We have had visitors this past year from all corners of the United States, Florida, California, Connecticut and New York, to mention a few, all traveling long distances to take advantage of the material in our library, especially the newspaper files. We answer requests by mail for people who desire information on many subjects. A certified copy of a legal notice which appeared years ago in an obscure country weekly may save much labor and expense in settling an estate today and this is a service we give many times.

However, I have mentioned these facts in my report for a number of years and still hope that the reasonableness of our request for an increase in the annual appropriation will be recognized and the really important needs of the library can be cared for.

I do not want to close this report without giving credit to my assistant, Mrs. Anne McDonnell, for her very valuable services. We both wish to express our appreciation of the splendid co-operation and never-failing courtesy of the members of the other state departments.

For the valuable assistance of the Board of Trustees in all matters and their many kindnesses to me I am sincerely grateful and thank them all.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID HILGER, Librarian,

104684

BOOKS ACCESSIONED DURING 1935-1936

Religion and Pihlosophy.....	5
Sociology	112
Natural Science	2
Useful Arts	16
Literature	16
General History and Travel.....	158
Newspapers, Periodicals (bound).....	109
Biography	25
	<hr/>
	443

Gifts Other Than Books Received During 1935-1936

Pen used by President Roosevelt in Signing the silver bill.

Aparejo (Mule pack sacks).

Mineral specimens.

Maps.

Sharp's rifle owned by the late John T. Murphy, Helena, Montana.

Saddle, property of the late John T. Murphy, Helena, Montana.

Desk, property of the late John T. Murphy, Helena, Montana.

Oil portrait of Senator T. J. Walsh.

Framed photograph of Governor F. H. Cooney.

Framed photographs of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Cavanaugh and son,
M. J. Cavanaugh, Jr.

Framed photograph of Philip Constans, Montana pioneer.

Miscellaneous items, photographs of historic interest, etc.

Maps.

Bowie knife owned by Capt. G. J. Wood, Helena pioneer.

Twenty-fourth Biennial Report
of the
Board of Trustees
of the
Historical Society
of Montana



1937-1938

From Date of Organization March 25, 1865

[illegible][illegible]

OFFICERS
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA
1938

Josephine I. Hepner, President	-	-	-	Helena, Montana
O. F. Goddard, Vice-President	-	-	-	Billings, Montana
M. M. Duncan	-	-	-	Virginia City, Montana
Fairie L. Evans	-	-	-	Deer Lodge, Montana
John B. Ritch, Secretary	-	-	-	Helena, Montana

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

TWENTY-FOURTH BIENNIAL REPORT TO GOVERNOR ROY E. AYERS 1938

Helena, Montana
Dec. 1, 1938

Hon. Roy E. Ayers,
Governor of Montana,
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

We have the honor to submit herewith the twenty-fourth biennial report of the Historical Society of Montana for the years 1937-1938 in compliance with the statute requirements.

We are respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

JOSEPHINE I. HEPNER,
President.

O. F. GODDARD
M. M. DUNCAN
FAIRIE L. EVANS
JOHN B. RITCH, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LIBARIAN

OF THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

Helena, Montana
Dec. 1, 1938

To the Board of Trustees of the
Historical Society of Montana.
Mrs. Josephine I. Hepner, President.

Members of the Board:

I present herewith the twenty-fourth biennial report of the Librarian of the Historical Society of Montana for the years 1937-1938.

Your librarian took office on November 8, 1937, succeeding the late David Hilger who passed away on October 16, 1937. Mr. Hilger had occupied the position of librarian for fourteen years and during this period had given valuable service to the state. Due to his long residence in Montana and wide acquaintance with its people his knowledge of the history of our state was exceptionally profound. With the passing of such Pioneers as David Hilger the importance of compiling their story before it is too late becomes more apparent.

The Historical Society of Montana was incorporated by an act of the legislature of Montana Territory, approved February 2, 1865, "in order to collect and arrange facts in regard to the early history of this Territory, the discovery of mines, incidents of the fur trade, etc." Its first headquarters were at Virginia City, subsequently these were removed to Deer Lodge, and then to Helena. In 1893 the property of the Historical Society of Montana came under control of the state and was combined with the Miscellaneous Division of the State Library and the whole was placed under the control of the Board of five trustees to be appointed by the governor.

Practically every state in the union has an Historical Society on which, by custom or statute, devolves the duty of gathering not only books historical of the region but of collecting relics and mementoes of the Pioncers. Many of these state historical societies are housed in their own buildings and it is my hope that Montana

will soon have a building to care for the collection which has been accumulated during the last seventy years. Much of the story of Montana in its earliest days has gone to other states with better facilities for housing and displaying historical collections. With a suitable building people will be more willing to donate valuable historical material to our Society. The History of Montana abounds in romance and thrills that appeal to all ages and types of people and is one of the most interesting and vivid chapters in the annals of the West. We have one of the finest libraries of northwest Americana, the best collection of Montana newspapers and nearly everything that has been printed relating to the history of our state together with manuscripts and original journals, pictures and museum items all of which should be properly installed in a building worthy of the collection.

May we say that we have reached the place where it is imperative that we have not only a safer storeroom for our historical treasures but a larger space in which to place them. Our main floor is full and more than twice as much material is filed in the basement below us. Considering the manner in which most of this material must be stored it is in constant jeopardy. I cite you to the fact that North Dakota's fine collection of historical records was saved by having a separate building of its own when fire destroyed that State's capitol building three years ago. I intend to present a plan or plans to finance the erecting of a library building to the legislative assembly which convenes in January, 1939.

Chapter 117 of the Political Code, Section 1560, provides among the duties of the Librarian (art. 4) "He shall each year publish a volume of transactions and contributions, under the supervision of the trustees, who shall also direct the distribution of the same to promote exchanges and secure additions to the library." Due to the fact that no money has been appropriated for publishing this annual volume none has been published since volume nine in 1923. As we have anticipated your cooperation, I began some months ago to collect the materials for this new volume. I believe volume ten will be one of the most interesting of our historical books. I have met with the heartiest cooperation from all persons requested to contribute. Only a few of the real pioneers of Montana are still alive, less than 200 I should say. Not all of these are members of the Pioneer Society. However, we are working to get as many of the stories of these aged ones as we can. When they go the story goes with them. A plan to do this efficiently and at a minimum cost has been worked out. The Society of Pioneers and the Sons and Daughters are giving us valuable assistance in this. For the reason that this work **must be done** within the ensuing two or three years we have asked for additional funds to carry out this work.

Montana is fortunate in having one of the most complete collections of bound newspapers in the United States. This consists of files of almost every paper published in the state since the first issue of the Montana Post in Virginia City, August 27, 1864, which was our first newspaper. Among our files are the Helena, Butte, Missoula, Virginia City, Bozeman, Great Falls, Fort Benton, Billings and Miles City newspapers from the first to the latest issue. In many instances we have the only files in existence of a paper which discontinued years ago. We have been able to furnish certified copies of legal notices, vital records or local items many times which could not be secured from any other source. The records of births, deaths and marriages will increase in value as the new social security, old age pension, and such laws create a need for such vital dates. The newspapers are the day books of history, a revealing diary of the people. The news stories, editorials, advertisements, general comment and local items furnish a vivid picture and for the history of a community they are invaluable.

Each year the library has its usual quota of students doing advanced research work on a thesis or writers collecting data and local color for a book who come from distant points to search through our newspaper files or consult the source material in the manuscript collection. When such people find it worth while to cross the United States to work in our library we realize more truly its historic value. The cost of binding the newspapers is an important item in our expenses and the work has fallen behind in recent years. The question of space for these files is a very serious problem and makes the need for a library building more evident. We have also been handicapped by lack of funds for the purpose of new books which are needed if Montana is to keep pace with other states. A Commonwealth's foundation and its glory is its history. Montana has a history as prideful as any state in the Union, but **it is not being preserved**. Much of it has been lost forever by reason of lack of funds to prosecute the work of preserving it. I ask you now to consider our appeal for means with which to go ahead.

The Society received as a tentative gift this year a valuable collection of letters, documents, business correspondence, etc., of one of Montana's oldest and most prominent citizens. The gift was made with the provision that no publicity be given the matter, and that only students doing advanced research work be allowed to use this material. It is such documents that make our library invaluable to a student of Montana history for in such material is found the basic facts of the history of the state and the correct information on the beginnings of its industrial and financial concerns.

I wish to extend my thanks to the various state departments for the unfailing courtesy and cooperation extended to me and my assistant, Mrs. Anne McDonnell.

Both Mrs. McDonnell and myself are deeply appreciative and grateful for the helpful support and assistance at all times of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society of Montana and take this opportunity of expressing our sincere thanks for your kindness.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN B. RITCH, Librarian.

Books Accessioned During 1937-1938

General works, newspapers, periodicals, etc.	281
Religion and Philosophy	19
Sociology	157
Philology	1
Natural Science	17
Useful arts	28
Fine arts	3
Literature	20
General history and travel	333
Biography	40
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 899

Gifts Other Than Books Received During 1937-1938

Maps of early Montana
 Cap and ball pistol
 Cavalry saber
 Knife and bullets from Baker battlefied on Marias River
 Old time washing-machine
 Old time flat-iron
 Indian drawings
 Mineral and fossil specimens
 Mill wheel of mill on Sun River
 Arrastra used in early mining in Helena vicinity
 Padlock from Fort Union
 Death mask of Thomas H. Carter
 Plaster bust of Frank H. Cooney
 Scrap books of John W. Eddy
 Portraits and photographs of Montana Pioneers

